PCT/GB 03/03880

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C03C1/02 C03B3/02 C03C1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 CO3C CO3B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

 $f_{\alpha, \beta} : \epsilon$

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 887 032 A (COLUMBIA-SOUTHERN CHEMICAL CORPORATION) page 2, line 24-51 page 2, line 69-130 page 3, line 25-37; examples I, II	1-10,13
Υ	claims 1-11	1-14
Υ	US 3 294 555 A (PITTSBURGH PLATE GLASS COMPANY) 27 December 1966 (1966-12-27) column 2, line 1 -column 3, line 24; claims 1-4; examples I,,II	1-14
Υ	US 6 340 650 B1 (HAUN MICHAEL JOSEPH) 22 January 2002 (2002-01-22) column 3, line 45-62 column 4, line 11-21 - line 63-67 column 6, line 1-10; claims 1-21	1-14

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents: A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	 'T' tater document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. '&' document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 7 January 2004	Date of mailing of the international search report 19/01/2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Maurer, R



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Category •	atton) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Α	GB 1 282 867 A (IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD) 26 July 1972 (1972-07-26) page 1, line 71 -page 2, line 57; claims 1-5	1-14
A	EP 1 123 903 A (BOC GROUP PLC) 16 August 2001 (2001-08-16) column 1, line 1-11; claims 1-32	1-14
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EP 1123903	A	16-08-2001	GB AU BR CA CN EP JP US	2363791	19-07-2001 11-09-2001 11-09-2001 18-07-2001 19-08-2001 14-08-2001